(v) a Comprehensive Insurance Scheme for industrial units has been introduced with 100% subsidy on premium for 10 years.

Statement

Name of Undertaking/ Address	Location	Item of manufacture	Proposed Annual capacity	Acknowledge-ment No./ Date
Jaintia Alloys Pvt. Ltd. 20 Vrindavan Market (2nd Floor) Athgaon, Guwahati, Kamrup Assam	Ribboi Meghalaya	Ingots of Iron and Steel other than High Carbon Steel etc.	12000.00 Tonnes	386 16.9.97

Actual Investment (Rs. Crore): 1 Memorandum No.: 1685 Date: 22/04/1996 Production Commenced on 01/04/1997

Foreign Trade and Balance of Payment Position

*313 SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the position of foreign trade and balance of payment as on 30th November, 1999, item-wise;

(b) whether our trade has been in deficit;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The trade balance for the period April-June, 1999-2000 is US $ -4134 million and current account balance

is US $ -2423 million as per the latest data. The items-wise details are as follows: rvalue in US $ Million)

	1999-2000 (April-June)
Exports	8148
Imports	12282
Trade Balance	-4134
Invisibles (net)	1711
Non factor services	-278
Investment income	-811
Private transfers	2743
Official grants	57
Current account balance	-2423

(b) to (d) As per DGCI&S provisional data, the trade deficit has been estimated at US $ 5796 million for the period April-October, 1999-2000. The trade deficit is the excess of imports over exports. A large proportion of our imports such as oil, capital goods, raw materials, etc. are necessary to sustain the growth of the economy. The steps to improve the balance of trade position include initiatives for attaining a high growth of exports and attracting capital flows in the form of foreign investments. The process of liberalisation has been carried forward with the changes introduced in the Exim Policy 1997—2002 and the focus is on improving the export competitiveness and minimising the transaction costs and delays faced by exporters. Services exports have been brought in the ambit of Exim Policy.

Decline in Export of Rice and Cotton

†*314. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of rice and cotton from the country has continuously been declining in comparison to the past years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.